

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant submits that this Amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicant believes that consideration of this Amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-18 are now presented for examination.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,771,383 ("Ogaki") in view of Mei, U.S. Patent No. 6,236,831 ("Mei") and further in view of Douglan, U.S. Patent No. 6,619,695 ("Douglan").

Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Mei and Douglan.

Ogaki discloses a mechanism adapted to create multi-page data consisting of image data of a plurality of pages that constitute one document, and to manage the multi-page data in the same stage as single-page data that consists of image data of each page belonging to the document. As a result, an image processing system is realized which can make use of both a single-page file suitable for management or updating of image data performed in units of one page, and a multi-page file suitable for processing of image data performed in units of one document. See Ogaki at Abstract.

Mei discloses a method and apparatus for recycling marking surfaces such as office paper is described. The system scans a marking surface, determines the location of

printing on the marking surface and deposits erasing material directly over the printing. Because the distribution of erasing material is confined to the printed areas, the use of erasing material is minimized. The described system can be easily adapted for use in traditional copying systems to recycle paper. See Mei at Abstract.

Douglins discloses a telecopier cover sheet comprising transparent membrane for legible marking thereon and at least one oppositely disposed membrane section assembled thereagainst and adapted for supporting a document therebetween. The transparent cover sheet allows a person sending the document by telecopier to create a writing that appears thereagainst in the telecopied mode and yet is subsequently erasable. The telecopy document is retained within the oppositely disposed membranes comprising the assembly to therein facilitate the handling and telecopying thereof. See Douglins at Abstract.

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

A method for processing a separator page used for separating print jobs being output from a printer system, said method comprising:

receiving an input separator page for use in identifying a second print job;

determining if said input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page;

obscuring said first print job information and the first set of end markers said first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page;

determining if all machine readable regions on the input separator page have been obscured;

discarding the input separator page if all machine readable regions on the input separator page have been obscured; and

printing second print job information on a machine-readable region of said input separator page between a

second set of end markers thereby providing a second print job separator page if all machine readable regions on the input separator page have not been obscured.

Applicant submits that Ogaki, Wei and Douglan each fail to disclose or suggest determining if all machine readable regions on an input separator page have been obscured, or discarding an input separator page if all such machine readable regions on the input separator page have been obscured. Therefore, any combination of Ogaki, Wei and Douglan would necessarily fail to disclose or suggest such features.

Independent claims 7 and 13 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus claims 7 and 13, and their respective dependent claims, are also patentable over Ogaki in view of Wei and Douglan for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-3669.

Respectfully submitted,
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